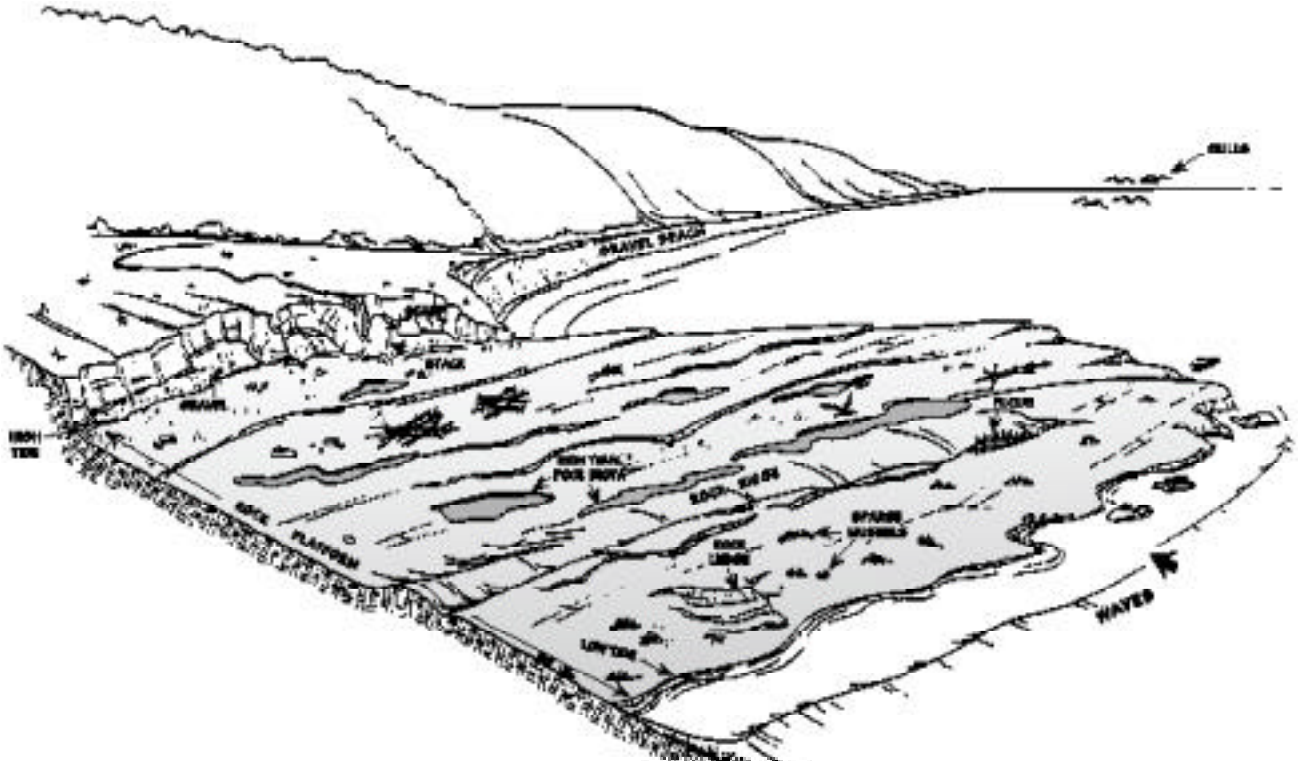
Exposed, Wave-cut Platforms



Exposed, Wave-cut Platforms

Description

- These shores consist of a bedrock shelf or platform of variable width and very gentle slope.
- The surface of the platform is irregular; tide pools are common.
- Along headlands, they have only small accumulation of sediments, mostly at the high-tide line.
- They often co-occur with gravel beaches; the gravel beach can be either at the upper or the lower half of the intertidal zone, depending on the nature of the bedrock outcrop.
- Species density and diversity vary greatly, but barnacles, snails, mussels, and macroalgae are often abundant.

Predicted Oil Behavior

- Oil will not adhere to the wet rock surface, but could penetrate crevices or sediment veneers.
- Oil persistence is usually short-term, except in wave shadows or where the oil was deposited high above normal wave activity.

Response Considerations

- Cleanup is usually not required.
- Where the high-tide area is accessible, it may be feasible to manually remove heavy oil accumulations and oiled debris.

Exposed, Wave-cut Platforms

INTERTIDAL

Oil Category Descriptions

I – Gasoline products
II – Diesel-like products and light crudes
III – Medium grade crudes and intermediate products
IV – Heavy crudes and residual products
V – Non-floating oil products

The following categories are used to compare the relative environmental impact of each response method in the specific environment and habitat for each oil type. The codes in each table mean:

A = The least adverse habitat impact.
B = Some adverse habitat impact.
C = Significant adverse habitat impact.
D = The most adverse habitat impact.
I = Insufficient information - impact or effectiveness of the method could not be evaluated.
— = Not applicable.

Response Method	Oil Category I	II	III	IV	V
Natural Recovery	A	A	A	A	A
Barriers/Berms	–	–	–	–	–
Manual Oil Removal/Cleaning	–	B	B	B	B
Mechanical Oil Removal	–	–	–	–	–
Sorbents	–	B	A	A	A
Vacuum	–	A	A	A	A
Debris Removal	–	A	A	A	A
Sediment Reworking/Tilling	–	–	–	–	–
Vegetation Cutting/Removal	–	–	–	–	–
Flooding (deluge)	–	A	A	B	B
Low-pressure, Ambient Water Flushing	–	A	A	B	B
High-pressure, Ambient Water Flushing	–	B	B	B	B
Low-pressure, Hot Water Flushing	–	D	C	C	C
High-pressure, Hot Water Flushing	–	D	C	C	C
Steam Cleaning	–	–	D	D	D
Sand Blasting	–	–	D	D	D
Solidifiers	–	C	C	–	–
Shoreline Cleaning Agents	–	–	C	C	C
Nutrient Enrichment	–	–	–	–	–
Natural Microbe Seeding	–	I	I	I	I
In-situ Burning	–	D	D	D	–

Consult the *Environmental Considerations for Marine Oil Spill Response* document referenced on page 5 before using this table.